



Quantum Blue[®] Adalimumab

Quantitative
Lateral Flow Assay

For *In Vitro* Diagnostic Use.

LF-TLAD25 25 tests

LF-TLAD10 10 tests

Release date: 2026-05-21
Version A5

 **Manufacturer**

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ENGLISH

INTENDED USE

Quantum Blue® Adalimumab is an *in vitro* diagnostic lateral flow immunoassay for the quantitative determination of trough levels of adalimumab in serum samples. The assay serves as an aid to therapeutic drug monitoring in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) under adalimumab therapy in conjunction with other clinical and laboratory findings. Quantum Blue® Adalimumab is combined with the Quantum Blue® Reader.

For laboratory use by healthcare professionals only. Not automated.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The test is designed for the selective measurement of adalimumab by a sandwich immunoassay. Recombinant tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF α) is conjugated to gold colloids. On the test cassette the gold conjugate is released from a pad into the reaction system as the sample is applied. Adalimumab present in the sample will bind to the gold conjugate. A monoclonal antibody, highly specific for adalimumab, is immobilized on the analytical membrane and will capture the complex of gold conjugate and the adalimumab analyte, resulting in a coloring of the test line (T). The remaining free TNF α -gold conjugate will bind to the control line (C). The signal intensities of the test line (T) and the control line (C) are measured quantitatively in a non-automated test procedure by the Quantum Blue® Reader. The Quantum Blue® Adalimumab must be performed in a laboratory setting and is not intended to be used for self-testing or near-patient testing.

REAGENTS SUPPLIED AND PREPARATION

Reagents	Quantity		Code	Comments
	LF-TLAD25	LF-TLAD10		
Test Cassette	25 pieces	10 pieces	B-LFTLAD-TC	Vacuum-sealed in a foil bag pouch
Chase Buffer	1 bottle 10 mL	1 bottle 10 mL	B-LFTLAD-CB	Ready to use
Controls Low* / High*	2 vials 0.5 mL	2 vials 0.5 mL	B-LFTLAD-CONSET	Ready to use
RFID Chip Card	1 piece	1 piece	B-LFTLAD-RCC	White plastic card
RFID Chip Card	1 piece	1 piece	B-LFTLAD-RCC15	Green plastic card
Barcode Card	1 piece	1 piece	B-LFTLAD-BCC	2D Barcode plastic card

Table 1

* The controls contain lot specific amounts of adalimumab. Refer to the additional QC datasheet for actual concentrations.

CHECK YOUR TEST KIT

BÜHLMANN products have been manufactured with the greatest of care and all possible efforts have been taken to ensure completeness of this test kit and its performance. Nevertheless, we advise you to verify your test kit for the condition of the test cassette and its pouch based on the following criteria:

- Expiration date
- The fault-free condition of the pouch (e.g. absence of any perforation that could be caused by improper handling).
- The fault-free condition of the test cassette (e.g. absence of scratches on the analytical membrane).

Should one of the test cassettes not fulfil the criteria mentioned above, please use another test cassette.

STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE OF REAGENTS

Unopened reagents	
Store at 2-8 °C. Do not use the reagents beyond the expiration date printed on the labels.	
Opened reagents	
Test Cassette	Test cassettes removed from the foil pouch must be used within 4 hours.
Chase Buffer	Store for up to 6 months at 2-8 °C after opening.
Controls Low / High	

Table 2

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- The devices described below are not delivered with the kit and must be ordered separately:

Devices	Quantity	Code
Quantum Blue® Reader	1 unit	BI-POCTR-ABS

Table 3

- Vortex mixer
- Timer (optional)
- Precision pipettes with disposable tips: 10-100 μ L and 100-1000 μ L
- Eppendorf tubes (or equivalent) for dilution of serum samples
- Gloves and laboratory coat

PRECAUTIONS

Safety precautions

- This test is for *in vitro* diagnostic use only.
- None of the reagents of this test contain components of human origin.
- It is recommended that the test be handled by qualified personnel, in accordance with Good Laboratory Practice (GLP):
 - The controls contain potentially infectious substances of animal origin.
 - Patient specimens should be handled as if capable of transmitting infections
- The controls and chase buffer of this kit contain components classified in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008: 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one hydrochloride (conc. \geq 0.0015 %), thus the reagents may cause allergic skin reactions (H317).
- Avoid contact of reagents with the skin, eyes, or mucous membranes. If contact does occur, immediately wash with generous amounts of water; otherwise, irritation can occur.

- Reagents, patient specimens and any discarded materials have to be treated as hazardous waste according to the national biohazard safety guideline or regulation.

Technical precautions

Kit components

- The test must be performed at room temperature (16-28 °C).
- All reagents, including test cassettes in foil pouches, and test samples must be equilibrated to room temperature before starting the assay.
- Before performing the test, remove the test cassette from the foil pouch. Allow the test cassette to equilibrate in the laboratory environment for at least 2 minutes. Test cassettes removed from the foil pouch must be used within 4 hours.
- Mix well (e.g. vortex) the reagents before use.
- Components must not be used after the expiration date printed on the labels.
- Do not mix different lots of reagents.
- Do not disassemble the test cassettes.
- Test cassettes cannot be re-used.
- Handle the test cassettes with care. Do not contaminate the sample loading port or read-out window via skin contact, other liquids, etc. (figure 1D).
- Ensure a flat, horizontal position of the test cassette while performing the assay.

Test procedure

- Read the instructions carefully prior to carrying out the test. Test performance will be adversely affected, if reagents are incorrectly diluted, handled or stored under conditions other than those as detailed in this instruction for use.
- Please note that there are two generations of readers: The Quantum Blue® Reader 2nd Generation with serial numbers between 1000 and 3000 (QB2) and Quantum Blue® Reader 3rd Generation with serial numbers above 3000 (QB3G).
- The QB2 must be switched on and programmed for the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab assay. Load the assay method using the RFID chip card (B-LFTLAD-RCC or B-LFTLAD-RCC15) before starting the assay (see Quantum Blue® Reader manual).
- The QB3G must be switched on and programmed for the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab assay either by using the barcode card (B-LFTLAD-BCC) or by selecting from the test menu (Fast Track Mode only). For more information please refer to the Quantum Blue® Reader manual.
- Use the RFID chip card (QB2) / barcode card (QB3G) in order to change lot-specific test parameters.
- Patient samples that are not properly handled may cause inaccurate results.
- Diluted samples should be stored at 2-8 °C and measured within 24 hours. The diluted samples cannot be stored for a longer period.
- Samples above 35 µg/mL (up to 500 µg/mL) may be additionally diluted 1:20 in chase buffer (1:400, in total) to obtain results within the measuring range of the test.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE

Collect blood into plain venipuncture tubes without any additives and avoid hemolysis. Perform serum preparation according to manufacturer's instructions. Decant the serum. Undiluted serum samples can be stored refrigerated at 2-8 °C for up to 14 days. For longer storage, keep undiluted serum samples at ≤ -20 °C. These samples are stable for up to 52 months at ≤ -20 °C.

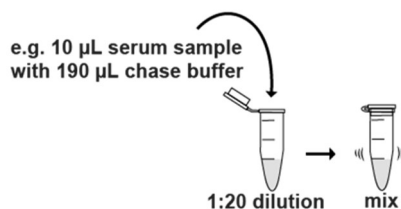
ASSAY PROCEDURE

For the assay use only reagents equilibrated to room temperature (16-28 °C). The test cassette must be removed from the foil pouch prior to assay start.

The assay procedure consists of two steps:

1. Dilution of serum samples with chase buffer

Prior to measurement dilute the serum sample 1:20 with chase buffer (B-LFTLAD-CB) (e.g. mix 10 µL serum sample with 190 µL chase buffer) in a test tube and mix it by vortexing, pipetting or shaking.

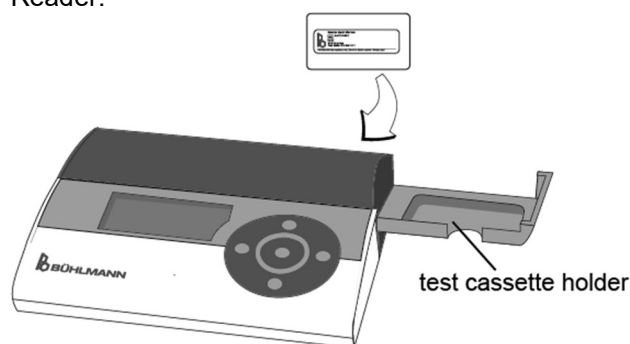


2. Lateral flow assay procedure and readout

Remark: Please refer to your Quantum Blue® Reader manual to learn about the basic functions and how to initialize and operate the Quantum Blue® Readers, especially how to select test methods and how to load lot-specific parameters from the RFID chip card (QB2) / barcode card (QB3G) on the Quantum Blue® Reader. Ensure the correct insertion of the test cassette into the Quantum Blue® Reader, with the read-out window first (figure 1D).

QB2

Two alternative methods can be loaded from the respective RFID chip card: B-LFTLAD-RCC15 (with internal timer) or B-LFTLAD-RCC (without internal timer). Select one of the RFID chip cards before starting the experiments. Load the test method from the RFID chip card on the Quantum Blue® Reader.



QB3G

Two different modes of operation are available to measure samples with the QB3G: Fast Track Mode or Fail Safe Mode. Before starting the assay, please inform yourself in which operation mode your reader is working. The test method can be loaded from the barcode card (Fast Track and Fail Safe Mode) or, if previously used, selected

from the test menu (Fast Track Mode only). Measurements can be performed with or without an internal timer in the Fast Track Mode. Measurements in the Fail Safe Mode can be performed with internal timer only.

Follow the instructions provided on the screen of the QB3G. You may also refer to the QB3G Quick Guides for the Fast Track and Fail Safe Mode.



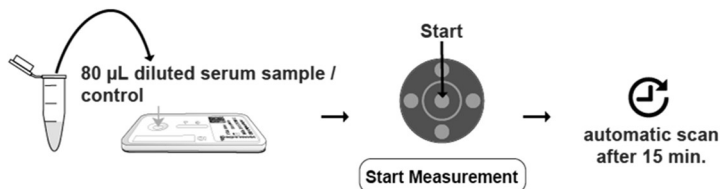
2.1. Method with internal timer

QB2: use the green RFID chip card B-LFTLAD-RCC15

QB3G (Fast Track Mode): when prompted by the QB3G to skip the incubation time, select “NO”

QB3G (Fail Safe Mode): default setting

- Unpack the test cassette. Allow the test cassette to equilibrate in the laboratory environment for at least 2 minutes.
- Add 80 µL of the diluted serum sample onto the sample loading port of the test cassette (figure 1D).
- Insert the test cassette into the test cassette holder of the Quantum Blue® Reader.
- Close the test cassette holder and start the measurement by pressing the start button on the QB2 or the “Start Measurement” option on the QB3G.
- The scan starts automatically after 15 minutes.
- For low / high controls: Repeat step 2.1 using 80 µL of control instead of diluted serum.



2.2. Method without internal timer

QB2: Use the white RFID chip card B-LFTLAD-RCC

QB3G (Fast Track Mode): when prompted by the QB3G to skip the incubation time, select “YES”

QB3G (Fail Safe Mode): option not available

- Unpack the test cassette. Allow the test cassette to equilibrate in the laboratory environment for at least 2 minutes.
- Add 80 µL of the diluted serum sample onto the sample loading port of the test cassette (figure 1D).

- Incubate for 15 ± 1 minutes (set a timer manually).
- Insert the test cassette into the test cassette holder of the Quantum Blue® Reader.
- Scan the test cassette with the Quantum Blue® Reader immediately by pressing the start button on the QB2 or the “Start Measurement” option on the QB3G.
- For low / high controls: Repeat step 2.2 using 80 µL of control instead of diluted serum.



QUALITY CONTROL

- The Quantum Blue® Adalimumab kit comes with two controls: control low and high. The controls have assigned value ranges indicated on the QC datasheet supplied with each kit. To ensure quality and performance of the equipment and the reagents, controls should be measured on a regular basis. Each laboratory should establish their own schedule for measuring control samples. The control measurements must be within the indicated value ranges to obtain valid results.
- If the performance of the assay does not correlate with the established limits and repetition excludes errors in technique, check the following issues: *i*) pipetting, temperature controlling and timing; *ii*) expiration dates of reagents; and *iii*) storage and incubation conditions.
- Result of the self-test of the Quantum Blue® Reader performed at the startup of the instrument has to be valid.

STANDARDIZATION AND METROLOGICAL TRACEABILITY

- Calibrator values of the standard curve are assigned according to a value transfer protocol (ref. 1). The calibrator material comprises adalimumab in a human serum matrix.
- Quantum Blue® Adalimumab is standardized against the WHO International Standard for Adalimumab (NIBSC code: 17/236). The value of the reference material is transferred to product calibrators allowing generation of test results traceable to the standard. The 95 % confidence interval of the combined uncertainty of the product calibrators is lower than 20.0 %, the combined uncertainty of the controls lower than 25.0 %.
- The Quantum Blue® Reader uses a lot-specific calibration curve to calculate the adalimumab concentration. The measuring range is between 1.3 and 35.0 µg/mL.

VALIDATION OF RESULTS

- For a valid test result, the control line (C) must be visible in all cases (see figure 1A and figure 1B). It is used as a functional test control only and cannot be used for the interpretation of the test line (T). If the test line (T) is not detectable after 15 minutes of incubation time (figure 1A), the concentration of adalimumab present in the serum sample is below the detection limit. If a test line (T) is

detectable after 15 minutes of incubation time (figure 1B), the adalimumab concentration present in the serum sample is calculated by the Quantum Blue® Reader.

- If only the test line (T) is detectable after 15 minutes of incubation time (figure 1C), the test result is invalid and the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab assay has to be repeated using another test cassette.
- If neither the control line (C) nor the test line (T) are detectable after 15 minutes of incubation time (figure 1D), the test result is invalid and the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab assay has to be repeated using another test cassette.
- As the Quantum Blue® Reader allows a quantitative evaluation of the test (T) and control (C) line, an additional validity check of the control line (C) is undertaken. If the signal intensity of the control line (C) is below a specific preconfigured threshold after 15 minutes of incubation time, the test result is invalid and the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab assay has to be repeated using another test cassette.

LIMITATIONS

- The reagents supplied with this kit are optimized to measure trough levels of adalimumab in diluted serum samples.
- Samples from patients switching from certolizumab (Cimzia®) therapy should not be tested directly with Quantum Blue® Adalimumab, as cross-reactivity may occur. Allow certolizumab (Cimzia®) trough levels to fall at least below 2.9 µg/mL.
- Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test results should be interpreted in conjunction with other clinical and laboratory findings. These may include the determination of IBD disease activity, presence of anti-drug antibodies, as well as information on patient's adherence to therapy (ref. 2).
- Adalimumab trough levels between 5 and 12 µg/mL are considered the consensus therapeutic window for best treatment efficacy. Optimal trough levels, however, may be individual and may differ depending on the treatment target as well as the disease phenotype (ref. 2).

EXPECTED VALUES

The determination of adalimumab trough levels in patient serum samples can support therapy monitoring of IBD patients. Generally, trough levels in serum that reach a value of 5 µg/mL and above, during therapy maintenance, correlate well with clinical remission (ref. 3, 4), low CRP values, as well as endoscopic healing of the gut mucosa (ref. 5, 6). A plateau for endoscopic remission was demonstrated for adalimumab trough levels above 12 µg/mL (ref. 6).

Values below 5 µg/mL

Sub-therapeutic adalimumab levels in serum suggest pharmacokinetic failure. Therapy adjustment, taking into account available clinical and laboratory findings, should be considered (ref. 2).

Values between 5-12 µg/mL

Therapeutic adalimumab trough levels may serve as an indication for continuing therapy with the current dosage, in patients in IBD disease remission (ref. 2).

Values above 12 µg/mL

Supra-therapeutic adalimumab trough levels may serve as an indication for dose reduction in conjunction with the clinical picture, in patients in IBD disease remission (ref. 2).

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

The following performance characteristics have been established with the Quantum Blue® Reader 2nd Generation and were verified on the Quantum Blue® Reader 3rd Generation.

Indicated performance characteristics apply for both Reader generations.

Method comparison

Bias at 5 µg/mL: 0.3 % (95 % CI: -8.1 – 6.8 %)

Bias at 12 µg/mL: 13.8 % (95 % CI: 7.9 – 21.7 %)

The method comparison study was performed according to the CLSI guideline EP09-A3. One hundred and thirty (130) clinical and contrived (3.1 % of total) samples were measured in triplicate with the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test, resulting in 390 values, and with a commercially available adalimumab ELISA test (ref. 7). Measurements were performed over four days using two Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test cassette lots. The results are summarized in figure 2.

Recovery: 80 – 90 %

Six clinical specimens including adalimumab levels close to clinical decision points were spiked with 5.44 µg/mL adalimumab in serum-based calibrator material. "Baseline" samples were spiked with the corresponding volume of analyte-free specimen. "Baseline" and "baseline + spike" samples were measured in ten replicates with one reagent lot. The results are shown in table 4.

Repeatability: 16.6 – 28.6 % CV

Within-laboratory precision: 19.1 – 29.9 % CV

Repeatability and within-laboratory precision were established according to the CLSI guideline EP05-A3 using the standardized 20 days x 2 runs x 2 replicates study design. Four, pooled, patient serum samples with adalimumab concentrations covering the measuring range of the assay and clinical decision points were tested. The results are summarized in table 5.

Reproducibility: 25.6 – 26.1 % CV

Reproducibility was established according to the CLSI guideline EP05-A3 by performing measurements using a 3 operators x 3 instruments/lots x 5 days x 5 replicates study design. Four, pooled, patient serum samples with adalimumab concentrations covering the measuring range of the assay and clinical decision points were tested. The results are summarized in table 6.

Limit of Detection (LoD): 0.8 µg/mL

The LoD was established according to the CLSI guideline EP17-A2 and with proportions of false positives (α) less than 5 % and false negatives (β) less than 5 % based on 120 determinations, with 60 blank and 60 low level replicates; and a **LoB of 0.2 µg/mL**.

Lower Limit of Quantitation (LLoQ): 1.3 µg/mL

Upper Limit of Quantitation (ULoQ): 35.0 µg/mL

The LLoQ and ULoQ were established according to the CLSI guideline EP17-A2 based on 90 and 75 determinations, respectively, and a precision goal of 30.0 % CV.

Linear range: 1.0 – 35.0 µg/mL

The linear range of the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test was determined according to the CLSI guideline EP06-A. Two sample pools, low and high, were blended to obtain a total of 15 concentration levels covering and exceeding the expected measuring range. The blends were assayed in ten replicates on two test cassette lots. The linear range was defined as the concentration interval in which coefficients of the second and third order non-linear fits were determined as not significant. The results are summarized in figure 3.

Samples with elevated adalimumab levels (up to 500 µg/mL) may be additionally diluted 1:20 in chase buffer (1:400, in total) to obtain linear results within the measuring range of the assay. A series of samples with adalimumab concentrations in the range of 7 to 800 µg/mL was generated by blending a high, contrived sample with negative serum. The samples were diluted twice 1:20 in chase buffer and measured in five replicates with the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test. A linear range was determined for adalimumab levels between 7 and 502 µg/mL.

High dose hook effect

No high dose hook effect was observed for samples with adalimumab concentrations of up to 787 µg/mL.

Biosimilars

The Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test specifically recognizes the adalimumab originator drug (Humira®) as well as the adalimumab biosimilar Hyrimoz® (Adalimumab adaz) in serum. The recovery of Hyrimoz® values compared to expected values, based on IgG determination of drug concentrations and dilution factor in negative serum, were found in the range of 80.1 % to 118.9 %.

INTERFERING SUBSTANCES

The susceptibility of the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test to interfering substances was assessed according to the CLSI-approved guideline EP7-A2. Interfering substances were tested at concentrations three-fold higher than those reported or expected in clinical samples or at concentration levels recommended by the CLSI guideline EP07-A2. Bias exceeding 30 % was considered interference.

Within-class switch

TNF α blockers were tested at concentrations exceeding lowest, recommended drug trough levels by three-fold. No interference was detected with the following substances at the listed concentrations: infliximab (Remicade®, 10 µg/mL), and golimumab (Simponi®, 10 µg/mL). Interference was detected with etanercept (Enbrel®) with the 95 % confidence interval of the interference trend exceeding acceptable bias at 2.7 µg/mL. Samples from patients switching from certolizumab (Cimzia®) should not be directly tested using the Quantum Blue® Adalimumab test. Allow certolizumab (Cimzia®) trough levels to fall at least below 2.9 µg/mL.

Serum indices

No interference was detected with the following substances, up to the listed concentrations: Triglycerides (Intralipid® 1320 mg/dL; equivalent to 37 mmol/L triglyceride),

conjugated bilirubin (342 µmol/L; 29 mg/dL), unconjugated bilirubin (342 µmol/L; 20 mg/dL), hemoglobin (200 mg/dL), TNF α (5.0 ng/mL) and rheumatoid factors (823 IU/mL).

Immunosuppressive co-medication

No interference was detected with immunosuppressive co-medication such as azathioprine (60 µmol/L, 3 µg/mL), 6-mercaptopurine (37 µmol/L, 2 µg/mL), and methotrexate (1363 µmol/L, 68 µg/mL).

TABLES AND FIGURES

Test Results

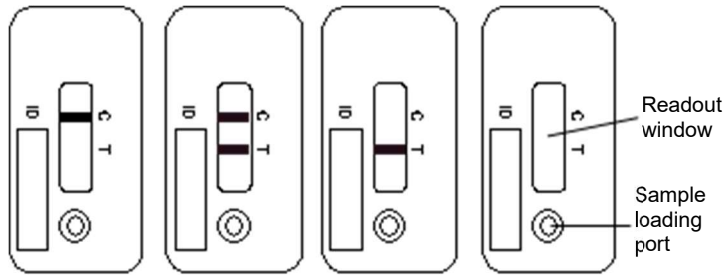


Figure 1A Figure 1B Figure 1C Figure 1D

Method Comparison

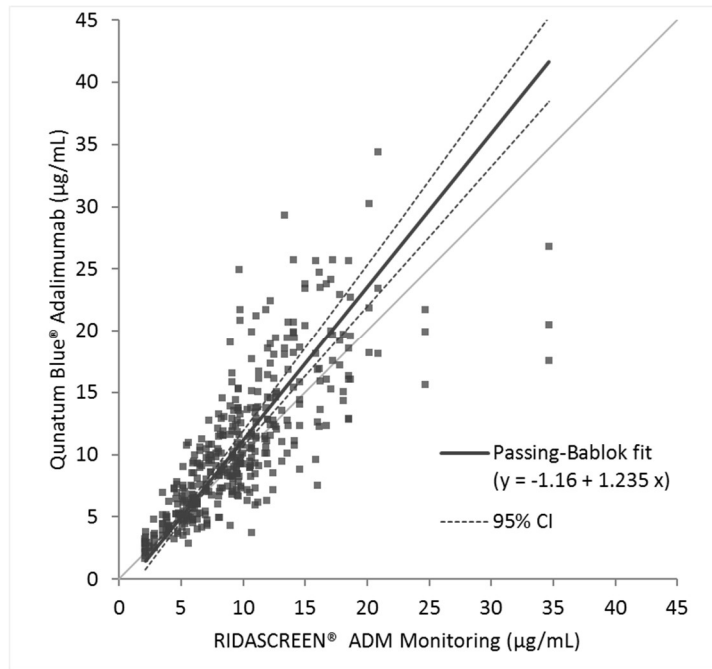


Figure 2

Recovery

Sample	Base [µg/mL]	Spike [µg/mL]	Expected Base + Spike [µg/mL]	Observed Base + Spike [µg/mL]	Recovery [%]
S1	2.6	5.44	8.0	6.7	83
S2	4.6	5.44	10.1	9.0	89
S3	5.2	5.44	10.7	8.6	80
S4	8.1	5.44	13.5	11.1	82
S5	8.5	5.44	13.9	12.5	90
S6	12.2	5.44	17.6	15.2	86

Table 4

Repeatability / Within-Laboratory Precision

Mean ADA Conc. [µg/mL]	Repeatability CV [%]	Between-run precision CV [%]	Between-day precision CV [%]	Within-lab precision CV [%]
2.0	18.7	3.4	1.6	19.1
6.6	16.6	12.6	0.0	20.9
9.4	17.8	7.3	1.1	19.3
22.7	28.6	3.6	8.0	29.9

Table 5

Reproducibility

Mean ADA Conc. [µg/mL]	Within-run CV [%]	Between-day precision CV [%]	Between-lot/ instrument /operator precision CV [%]	Within-lab precision CV [%]
2.5	19.6	0.0	16.5	25.6
7.6	19.8	7.3	14.8	25.8
10.3	21.6	0.0	14.7	26.1
25.1	23.5	2.2	10.6	25.9

Table 6

Linearity Plot

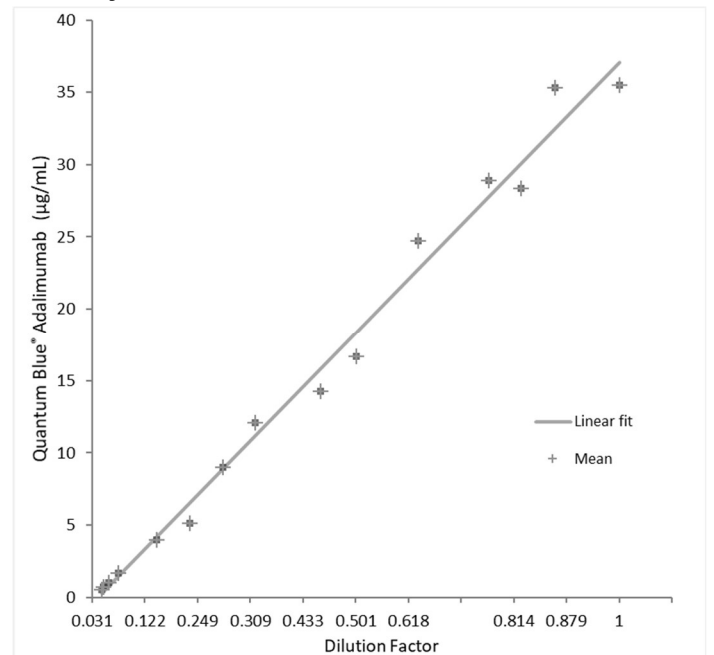


Figure 3

REFERENCES

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2. Mitrev N et al. : *Review article : consensus statements on therapeutic drug monitoring of anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy in inflammatory bowel disease*. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 46(11-12):1037-1053 (2017)
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7. Bian S. et al. : *Generation and characterization of a unique panel of anti-adalimumab specific antibodies and their application in therapeutic drug monitoring assays*. J Pharm Biomed Anal. 125:62-7 (2016)

INCIDENT REPORTING IN EU MEMBER STATES

If any serious incident in relation to this device has occurred, please report without delay to the manufacturer and competent authority of your Member State.

SHIPPING DAMAGE

Please notify your distributor, if this product was received damaged.

CHANGELOG


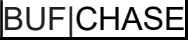



Date	Version	Change
2026-05-21	A5	Precising the <i>Intended Use</i> by adding information regarding test automation and intended user. Revision of chapters <i>Principle of the Assay</i> , <i>Materials required but not provided</i> , <i>Precautions</i> (subchapter <i>Safety precautions</i>) and <i>Symbols</i> . Update to chapter <i>Quality control</i> . Restructuring of chapter <i>Assay procedure</i> . Update of eIFU Symbol on front page (only applicable for English document version).

SYMBOLS

BÜHLMANN use symbols and signs listed and described in ISO 15223-1.

For definition of symbols see the symbol glossary at: www.buhmannlabs.ch/support/downloads/

In addition, the following symbols and signs are used:

Symbol	Explanation
	Test Cassette
	Chase Buffer
	Control Low
	Control High
	RFID Chip Card

Parts of the kit are patent protected by EP 3632561 (B1).

